ENG 207: SHAKESPEARE’S EARLY PLAYS
WINTER 2012 (CRN: 22445)
Instructor: Marcus Hensel
Email: mhensel1@uoregon.edu
Meeting: 195 Anstett Hall (TR 4-5:20 pm)
Office: PLC 223
Phone: 346.3977
Office Hours: M (1-3 pm), W (9.30-11.30 am), R (1-3 pm), and by appointment

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

- **Required Texts and Supplies:**
  - *Hamlet* (Folger Shakespeare Library edition)
  - Stapler
- **Recommended Texts:**
  - A writing handbook (*Rules for Writers* is easily available)
  - College-level dictionary

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of ENG 207 is to sketch out an introduction to Shakespeare’s dramatic works (as opposed to the poetic works covered in ENG 221). For this class, we will generally read comedies—as they and histories comprise the vast majority of Shakespeare’s early oeuvre. This course does not have a “theme,” but we will examine a particular facet of each of the four plays we read: language in *Comedy of Errors*, the “green world” in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, gender in *As You Like It*, and psychology in *Hamlet*. The first three plays—taken in their traditional chronological order—also form a picture of a maturing Shakespeare who increasingly tinged even his comedies with the emotional depth and darkness that culminates in our reading of *Hamlet* (and continues in his later plays like *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, and *Othello*).

EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your final course grade is based on the following:

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>30%</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>15%</td>
<td>Paper 1</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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**PAPERS:** You will write a total of four papers (one for each play) for this class—none more than four pages in length. Paper topics for each of the four plays will be strictly limited by the prompt/assignment sheet; Papers that do not engage with the proposed topic will earn grades no higher than a D+.

**PARTICIPATION:** Understanding literature—especially the work of someone like Shakespeare who interweaves motifs and issues so subtly—involves understanding the perspectives of different readers; the best way to explore ideas is engagement with others through conversation. What we sometimes forget is that conversation is literally talking with people, not talking at them, so you will be expected to participate regularly. A large portion of this grade will also depend on your attendance at and participation in our workshops for each of the first four papers. If you have any concerns about this requirement, see me before the end of Week 2.

**FINAL EXAM:** There will be a comprehensive final exam for this class (see Schedule). There will be no midterm exam.
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE: You are responsible for all material covered in class and for turning in all assignments whether or not you are present. Continued absence will definitely have a negative impact on your performance in this class and will also lower the participation portion of your grade.

CODE OF COURTESY: Arrive on time with your cell phone silenced. Bring the appropriate book, and give the me, guest lecturer, or a speaking classmate your full attention. Do not chat, text, or surf the internet. Remain in the room until the class meeting ends, and conduct yourself in a respectful manner. Most importantly: never hesitate to ask a question, to express a doubt, or to request clarification. No one (including me) has an infallible understanding of Shakespeare.

PREPAREDNESS: Unless otherwise noted, all papers and out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day stipulated in the Schedule. Since all students are held to the same standards of grading and should therefore have the same amount of time to complete assignments, my policy on late work is strict. Papers will be penalized one letter grade for each calendar day (whole or part) they are late, unless you have made prior arrangements with me. NB: I will not accept any assignment that is more than three days late. Additionally, missed in-class activities cannot be made up. If a required UO function or family emergency will make you absent on an essay due date, be sure to turn in the essay early or arrange for it to be turned in on time. If you do not contact me in advance, be prepared to demonstrate in writing that you were unable to do so.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All work submitted must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented in MLA style. Please refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. In cases where plagiarism has been clearly established, the award of a failing grade for the final course grade is standard practice. To this end, all essays must be submitted to SafeAssign on the Blackboard page no later than twenty-four hours after the original due date. Failure to submit the essay will lead to the penalties as described in the “Preparedness” section above.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have a disability (physical or learning) that you think may affect your performance in this class, please contact me before Week 2 so we can any necessary arrangements for your full access to all classroom activities.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS FOR YOUR SUCCESS

EMAIL: I will be available not only through my office hours, but also through email. I encourage you to email legitimate questions or concerns, but do not abuse this privilege. I will not read attached documents unless you have made prior arrangements with me or you have a legitimate emergency that bars you from attending class on the day an assignment is due. I do not respond to emails sent on weekends or school holidays until the following business day.

BLACKBOARD: This class will utilize some of Blackboard’s features. I have already posted the Syllabus, Schedule, Style Sheet, etc. As stated above, we will also make use of the SafeAssign feature.

OFFICE HOURS: I strongly encourage you to meet with me individually to better understand my expectations and discuss readings, paper topics, or other areas of interest. Either visit during my drop-in office hours or make an appointment if my normal hours are inconvenient.

Your continued attendance in this class is a binding agreement that both you and I will abide by the policies set forth above. This document is subject to change with advanced notice.
Week 1 (10, 12 January)
- T: Introduction
- R: The Comedy of Errors; Reading 1 (on Blackboard)

Week 2 (17, 19 January)
- T: The Comedy of Errors
- R: The Comedy of Errors

Week 3 (24, 26 January)
- T: Paper 1 Workshop
- R: A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Paper 1 Due

Week 4 (31 January, 2 February)
- T: A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Reading 2 (on Blackboard)
- R: A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Week 5 (7, 9 February)
- T: Paper 2 Workshop
- R: As You Like It; Reading 3 (on Blackboard); Paper 2 Due

Week 6 (14, 16 February)
- T: As You Like It
- R: As You Like It

Week 7 (21, 23 February)
- T: As You Like It
- R: Paper 3 Workshop

Week 8 (28 February, 1 March)
- T: Guest lecture on Hamlet and cognitive science; Paper 3 Due
- R: Hamlet

Week 9 (6, 8 March)
- T: Hamlet
- R: Hamlet

Week 10 (13, 15 March)
- T: Paper 4 and 5 Workshop
- R: TBD (possible review session for final exam); Paper 4 Due

Final: 20 March at 1.00pm

Schedule subject to change with advanced notice.